

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1657

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP**
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-
7 thorized to establish a Science and Technology
8 Scholarship Program to award scholarships to indi-
9 viduals that is designed to recruit and prepare stu-
10 dents for careers in the National Weather Service
11 and in Administration marine research, atmospheric
12 research, and satellite programs.

13 (2) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—Individuals shall
14 be selected to receive scholarships under this section
15 through a competitive process primarily on the basis
16 of academic merit, with consideration given to finan-
17 cial need and the goal of promoting the participation
18 of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the
19 Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act
20 (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b).

21 (3) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the
22 scholarship program, the Administrator shall enter
23 into contractual agreements with individuals selected
24 under paragraph (2) under which the individuals
25 agree to serve as full-time employees of the Adminis-

1 tration, for the period described in subsection (f)(1),
2 in positions needed by the Administration in fields
3 described in paragraph (1) and for which the indi-
4 viduals are qualified, in exchange for receiving a
5 scholarship.

6 (b) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligi-
7 ble to participate in the scholarship program, an individual
8 shall—

9 (1) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a
10 full-time student at an institution of higher edu-
11 cation in an academic program or field of study de-
12 scribed in the list made available under subsection
13 (d);

14 (2) be a United States citizen or permanent
15 resident; and

16 (3) at the time of the initial scholarship award,
17 not be a Federal employee as defined in section
18 2105 of title 5 of the United States Code.

19 (c) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—An individual seeking
20 a scholarship under this section shall submit an applica-
21 tion to the Administrator at such time, in such manner,
22 and containing such information, agreements, or assur-
23 ances as the Administrator may require to carry out this
24 section.

1 (d) ELIGIBLE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.—The Adminis-
2 trator shall make publicly available a list of academic pro-
3 grams and fields of study for which scholarships may be
4 utilized in fields described in subsection (a)(1), and shall
5 update the list as necessary.

6 (e) SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may pro-
8 vide a scholarship under the scholarship program for
9 an academic year if the individual applying for the
10 scholarship has submitted to the Administrator, as
11 part of the application required under subsection (c),
12 a proposed academic program leading to a degree in
13 a program or field of study on the list made avail-
14 able under subsection (d).

15 (2) DURATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—An individual
16 may not receive a scholarship under this section for
17 more than 4 academic years, unless the Adminis-
18 trator grants a waiver.

19 (3) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—The dollar
20 amount of a scholarship under this section for an
21 academic year shall be determined under regulations
22 issued by the Administrator, but shall in no case ex-
23 ceed the cost of attendance.

24 (4) AUTHORIZED USES.—A scholarship pro-
25 vided under this section may be expended for tuition,

1 fees, and other authorized expenses as established by
2 the Administrator by regulation.

3 (5) CONTRACTS REGARDING DIRECT PAYMENTS
4 TO INSTITUTIONS.—The Administrator may enter
5 into a contractual agreement with an institution of
6 higher education under which the amounts provided
7 for a scholarship under this section for tuition, fees,
8 and other authorized expenses are paid directly to
9 the institution with respect to which the scholarship
10 is provided.

11 (f) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—

12 (1) DURATION OF SERVICE.—Except as pro-
13 vided in subsection (h)(2), the period of service for
14 which an individual shall be obligated to serve as an
15 employee of the Administration shall be 24 months
16 for each academic year for which a scholarship
17 under this section is provided.

18 (2) SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
20 subparagraph (B), obligated service under para-
21 graph (1) shall begin not later than 60 days
22 after the individual obtains the educational de-
23 gree for which the scholarship was provided.

24 (B) DEFERRAL.—The Administrator may
25 defer the obligation of an individual to provide

1 a period of service under paragraph (1) if the
2 Administrator determines that such a deferral
3 is appropriate. The Administrator shall pre-
4 scribe the terms and conditions under which a
5 service obligation may be deferred through reg-
6 ulation.

7 (g) PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF SCHOLARSHIP
8 AGREEMENT.—

9 (1) FAILURE TO COMPLETE ACADEMIC TRAIN-
10 ING.—Scholarship recipients who fail to maintain a
11 high level of academic standing, as defined by the
12 Administrator by regulation, who are dismissed from
13 their educational institutions for disciplinary rea-
14 sons, or who voluntarily terminate academic training
15 before graduation from the educational program for
16 which the scholarship was awarded, shall be in
17 breach of their contractual agreement and, in lieu of
18 any service obligation arising under such agreement,
19 shall be liable to the United States for repayment
20 not later than 1 year after the date of default of all
21 scholarship funds paid to them and to the institution
22 of higher education on their behalf under the agree-
23 ment, except as provided in subsection (h)(2). The
24 repayment period may be extended by the Adminis-

trator when determined to be necessary, as established by regulation.

(2) FAILURE TO BEGIN OR COMPLETE THE SERVICE OBLIGATION OR MEET THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF DEFERMENT.—A scholarship recipient who, for any reason, fails to begin or complete a service obligation under this section after completion of academic training, or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of deferment established by the Administrator pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(B), shall be in breach of the contractual agreement. When a recipient breaches an agreement for the reasons stated in the preceding sentence, the recipient shall be liable to the United States for an amount equal to—

(A) the total amount of scholarships received by such individual under this section; plus

(B) the interest on the amounts of such awards which would be payable if at the time the awards were received they were loans bearing interest at the maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined by the Treasurer of the United States.

(h) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATION.—

1 (1) DEATH OF INDIVIDUAL.—Any obligation of
2 an individual incurred under the scholarship pro-
3 gram (or a contractual agreement thereunder) for
4 service or payment shall be canceled upon the death
5 of the individual.

6 (2) IMPOSSIBILITY OR EXTREME HARDSHIP.—
7 The Administrator shall by regulation provide for
8 the partial or total waiver or suspension of any obli-
9 gation of service or payment incurred by an indi-
10 vidual under the scholarship program (or a contrac-
11 tual agreement thereunder) whenever compliance by
12 the individual is impossible or would involve extreme
13 hardship to the individual, or if enforcement of such
14 obligation with respect to the individual would be
15 contrary to the best interests of the Government.

16 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act the following defini-
17 tions apply:

18 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
19 tion” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
20 Administration.

21 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
22 trator” means the Administrator of the National
23 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

24 (3) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of
25 attendance” has the meaning given that term in sec-

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—The term “scholarship program” means the Science and Technology Scholarship Program established under this section.

Passed the House of Representatives September 17,
2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.